

1.0 Public Service Commission

Purpose

The primary responsibility of the Commission is to ensure safe, reliable and adequate utility service. It conducts hearings and investigations of utility company operations in order to determine just and reasonable rates for service. The Commission's goals for regulation are efficient reliable, reasonably-priced utility service for customers, and maintenance of financially healthy utility companies. These goals are generally attained through the regulatory decisions the Commission makes in each formal case.

Funding for the operation of the Commission has remained stable for the last few years. No major adjustments have been made to the budget for the last several years and none are recommended for the FY 2001 budget. Fees are collected by the Commission which are added to the General Fund. Year 2000 changes were done and computer upgrades are done within the current budget limits.

Department Mission Statement

While managing the transition from regulation to competition, the Commission's goal is to ensure efficient, reliable, high quality, reasonably priced utility service, which, over the long-run meets consumer demand for types and qualities of service and maintains financially healthy utility companies.

Utah Tomorrow

The Public Service Commission has been involved with Utah Tomorrow since its inception. Benchmarks have been established in the areas of Free Enterprise and Regulatory Systems and Economic Development. The Public Service Commission contributes to the State business climate and the free enterprise opportunities for growth and expansion within the State.

	Analyst FY 2001	Analyst FY 2001	Analyst FY 2001
Financing	Base	Changes	Total
General Fund	\$1,381,900		\$1,381,900
Dedicated Credits Revenue	3,716,900		3,716,900
Universal Public Tele. Service Fund	5,531,900		5,531,900
Beginning Nonlapsing	11,182,100		11,182,100
Closing Nonlapsing	(11,616,800)		(11,616,800)
Total	\$10,196,000	\$0	\$10,196,000
Programs			
Public Service Commission	\$1,358,400		\$1,358,400
Building Operations and Maintenance	26,300		26,300
Research and Analysis	60,000		60,000
Speech and Hearing Impaired	2,307,500		2,307,500
Univ. Public Telecom. Service Spt	5,193,800		5,193,800
Lifeline Telecommunications Service	1,250,000		1,250,000
Total	\$10,196,000	\$0	\$10,196,000
FTE	17.0		17.0

2.0 Budget Highlights: Public Service Commission

2.1 No Significant Budget Change

There is no significant change to the budget for the Public Service Commission. Adjusting for the Year 2000 was done with the standard appropriated budget. No new funds were added to the budget. Technology is constantly being upgraded within current budget limits.

2.2 Deregulation of the Electric Industry

The Public Service Commission is closely studying and monitoring the issues related to the deregulation of the electric industry. The Legislative Task Force on Electrical Deregulation and Customer Choice has recommended another year of study and examining the options. These issues themselves do not have a significant fiscal impact directly on the Commission budget, but the effort to develop the final decisions affect the Commission's work load and may have major ramifications for all citizens of the State.

2.3 Nonlapsing Balances

The Public Service Commission carries-over a substantial sum of money in nonlapsing balances in several related line items. These balances are primarily in trust fund accounts that cannot be used for any purpose other than that for which it is established. Much of the nonlapsing funding for the Speech and Hearing Impaired was originally to overhaul the Utah Relay Service Center. As a result of the procurement and RFP processes, the Commission has established a contract with SPRINT to provide these services for the deaf. The Utah Relay Service operated by the Utah Association for the Deaf was closed on January 28, 2000.

2.4 Lifeline Telecommunications Service Fund

The Public Service Commission has separated the Lifeline Telecommunications Service Fund from the Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund. This is listed as a separate line item. Funds have been collected for the last several years. Recent changes have affected more telephone companies. The individual telephone companies collect the money and send it to the Public Service Commission. This has increased revenue to the fund. The purpose of the fund is to assist low income individuals, who qualify, to have basic telephone service at a lower rate.

3.1 Programs: Public Service Commission-Administration

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends Administration funding of \$1,358,400. Funding is primarily from the General Fund.

Financing	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimated	FY 2001	Est/Analyst Difference
Financing			Analyst	
General Fund	\$1,329,500	\$1,367,400	\$1,355,600	(\$11,800)
Dedicated Credits Revenue	3,000	3,000	2,800	(200)
Beginning Nonlapsing	50,000	50,000	50,000	
Closing Nonlapsing	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	
Lapsing Balance	(23,800)			
Total	\$1,308,700	\$1,370,400	\$1,358,400	(\$12,000)
Expenditures				
Personal Services	\$1,105,800	\$1,191,700	\$1,178,800	(\$12,900)
In-State Travel	900	900	900	
Out of State Travel	21,400	21,400	21,400	
Current Expense	80,500	77,800	78,700	900
DP Current Expense	89,000	67,500	67,500	
Capital Outlay	11,100	11,100	11,100	
Total	\$1,308,700	\$1,370,400	\$1,358,400	(\$12,000)
FTE	16.0	17.0	17.0	

Purpose

The Public Service Commission is a quasi-judicial body which regulates all privately owned electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and water public utilities. The Commission works to insure that rates, terms, and conditions of utility service are "just and reasonable," to meet the public interest defined by statute and case law. Recent changes in State and federal law recognize the influence of competition on these industries, which have traditionally been regulated monopolies. The transition from monopoly to competition must be done fairly to protect the public interest to assure that services remain good, reliable, and reasonably priced. Although many aspects of traditional regulation are still an important part of the Commission's workload, the transition to competition is also very significant.

With the Division of Public Utilities (Department of Commerce), the Commission initiates investigations into situations where utilities may be in violation of the law or are not operating in the public interest.

Performance Measures

The Public Service Commission has reported a series of performance measures and tracking items. The following items are a partial listing to indicate Department activity.

Activity	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
Hearings ⁽¹⁾	81	$88^{(2)}$	91	84
Number of Dockets Considered	222	184	199	385
Orders Issued	395	267	254	293

^{(1) -} Hearings related to water, electricity, telephone, motor carriers, and gas utilities.

(2) -Motor carriers were deregulated starting in FY 1997.

3.2 Programs: Public Service Commission - Building Operation and Maintenance

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends funding of \$26,300. This continues the lease at the same rate as FY 2000. Funding is from the General Fund.

Financing	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimated	FY 2001 Analyst	Est/Analyst Difference
General Fund	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$26,300	
Total	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$0
Expenditures				
Current Expense	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$26,300	
Total	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$26,300	\$0

Purpose

The Public Service Commission is located at the Heber M. Wells Building off of Third South and First East in Salt Lake City. The building is owned and operated by the Division of Facilities and Construction Management (DFCM) of the State Department of Administrative Services.

Performance Measures

No performance measures are reported for this area.

3.3 Programs: Public Service Commission-Research and Analysis

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends funding of \$60,000 from Dedicated Credit Revenue.

Financing Dedicated Credits Revenue Total	FY 1999 Actual \$49,300 \$49,300	FY 2000 Estimated \$60,000 \$60,000	FY 2001 Analyst \$60,000 \$60,000	Est/Analyst Difference
Expenditures				φo
Current Expense	\$49,300 \$49,300	\$60,000 \$60,000	\$60,000 \$60,000	\$0

Purpose

The funds collected and distributed are part of the Wexpro Agreement. The agreement between the State and Wexpro is to monitor the mineral extraction industries of the State. These funds are for accounting fees and contracted services of a hydrocarbon specialist in accordance with the agreement. When services have been provided, a bill is sent to Wexpro who then sends the funds to the Commission.

Performance Measures

No performance measures have been reported for this area.

3.4 Programs: Public Service Commission-Speech and Hearing Impaired

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends funding of \$2,307,500. The funding is from Dedicated Credit Revenue.

Financing	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimated	FY 2001 Analyst	Est/Analyst Difference
Dedicated Credits Revenue	\$2,399,700	\$2,400,400	\$2,514,300	\$113,900
Beginning Nonlapsing	2,993,100	3,565,300	3,658,200	92,900
Closing Nonlapsing	(3,565,300)	(3,658,200)	(3,865,000)	(206,800)
Total	\$1,827,500	\$2,307,500	\$2,307,500	\$0
Expenditures Current Expense	\$1,827,500	\$2,307,500 \$2,307,500	\$2,307,500 \$2,307,500	

Purpose

The Speech and Hearing Impaired Program provides telecommunication access twenty-four hours a day between hearing impaired persons using telecommunication devices (TDD) and hearing persons. The services are now contracted through SPRINT.

Deaf users must use a TDD system. These are loaned without charge to low-income individuals and are available for sale to others. All of the Utah Relay Service equipment is the property of the Public Service Commission, including the loaned TDDs.

Previous System

The Utah Relay Service (URS) was operated by the Utah Association for the Deaf until January 2000. The Utah Relay Service had eighteen incoming lines, seven from the Salt Lake area, four from Utah Valley, two from Ogden, two from Logan and three WATS lines for other areas of the State.

New System Contract

The facility which was located in Bountiful, Utah, was closed on January 28, 2000. The contract to provide this service was awarded to SPRINT in July of 1999. The details were finalized and SPRINT began operations at the end of January 2000. The actual operations are performed out-of-state through a 1-800 number. Funds collected and carried over from the previous several years will be necessary to fund the complete the program. Once the system is fully operational, the surcharge could be reevaluated for a possible reduction in rates.

Performance Measures

The major activity of this budget item is telephone calls.

	Number of Calls Completed
FY 1996	471,421
FY 1997	456,790
FY 1998	501,236
FY 1999	541,400

3.5 Programs: Public Service Commission-Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends funding of \$5,193,900 from the Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund. Revenue generated is dedicated to this program. This is a separate line item.

Financing Universal Public Telecom Beginning Nonlapsing Closing Nonlapsing	FY 1999 Actual \$6,905,000 4,480,600 (6,191,700)	FY 2000 Estimated \$5,368,300 6,191,700 (6,366,100)	FY 2001 Analyst \$5,531,900 6,366,100 (6,704,200)	Est/Analyst Difference \$163,600 174,400 (338,100)
Total Expenditures Other Charges/Pass Thru Total	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,800	(\$100)
	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,800	(\$100)
	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,800	(\$100)

Purpose

The new funding mechanism for the Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund (previously the Universal Service Trust Fund) account is a one percent surcharge on intra-state retail revenue. This charge was put in place in June of 1998 for the affected companies to be reflected in their billing. It is intended to subsidize eligible telephone exchange customers whose costs are much higher to operate than the State-wide average for providing local exchange and switched access service.

Fund Conversion

The Universal Service Trust Fund was dissolved December 31, 1999 by the Public Service Commission. At that time, the remaining money in the Trust Fund was transferred to the Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund established in Utah Code 54-8b-15. It has the same responsibility to "preserve and promote universal telephone service within the State by ensuring that customers have access to affordable basic telephone service."

Lifeline Telecommunications Service Fund

The Public Service Commission has separated the Lifeline Telecommunications Service Fund from the Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund. Funds have been collected for the last several years. It is paid for by a \$.10 surcharge per month per non-lifeline telephone access line. Recent changes have impacted more telephone companies requiring them to pay. The individual telephone companies collect the money and send it to the Public Service Commission. The additional participation has increased revenue to the fund. The purpose of the fund is to assist low income individuals who qualify to have basic telephone service at a lower rate. The statutory reference is Utah Code 54-8b-15(7)(a).

Financing Dedicated Credits Revenue Beginning Nonlapsing Closing Nonlapsing	FY 1999 Actual \$1,213,200 (1,207,800)	FY 2000 Estimated \$1,002,300 1,207,800 (1,107,800)	FY 2001 Analyst \$1,139,800 1,107,800 (997,600)	Est/Analyst Difference \$137,500 (100,000) 110,200
Total _	\$5,400	\$1,102,300	\$1,250,000	\$147,700
Expenditures Other Charges/Pass Thru Total =	\$5,400 \$5,400	\$1,102,300 \$1,102,300	\$1,250,000 \$1,250,000	\$147,700 \$147,700

Performance Measures

Currently the subsidized lines are provided by nine rural telephone companies. This is an effort to provide low cost basic telephone service throughout the State.

Number of Line	es Subsidized
FY 1999	52,325

4.0 Additional Information: Public Service Commission

4.1 (a) Funding History: Public Service Commission - Administration

Einonging	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimated	FY 2001
Financing General Fund	\$1,282,000	\$1,310,800	\$1,355,800	\$1,393,700	Analyst \$1,381,900
Dedicated Credits Revenue	2,600	1,800	3,000	3,000	2,800
GFR - Special Administrative Expense	2,000	1,000	3,000	3,000	2,800
Beginning Nonlapsing	55,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Closing Nonlapsing	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
	, , ,	, , ,	` ' '	(30,000)	(30,000)
Lapsing Balance Total	(83,900)	(37,000) \$1,275,600	(23,800)	¢1 206 700	¢1 294 700
	\$1,205,700		\$1,335,000	\$1,396,700	\$1,384,700
% Change		5.8%	4.7%	4.6%	-0.9%
Programs					
Public Service Commission	\$1,179,400	\$1,249,400	\$1,308,700	\$1,370,400	\$1,358,400
Building Operations and Maintenance	26,300 \$1,205,700	26,200 \$1,275,600	26,300 \$1,335,000	26,300 \$1,396,700	26,300 \$1,284,700
Total	\$1,203,700	\$1,273,000	\$1,333,000	\$1,390,700	\$1,384,700
Expenditures					
Personal Services	\$999,400	\$1,073,800	\$1,105,800	\$1,191,700	\$1,178,800
In-State Travel	400	500	900	900	900
Out of State Travel	17,700	20,500	21,400	21,400	21,400
Current Expense	98,300	120,800	106,800	104,100	105,000
DP Current Expense	66,700	49,600	89,000	67,500	67,500
Capital Outlay	00,700	10,400	11,100	11,100	11,100
Other Charges/Pass Thru	23,200	10,400	11,100	11,100	11,100
Total	\$1,205,700	\$1,275,600	\$1,335,000	\$1,396,700	\$1,384,700
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FTE	16.0	16.0	16.0	17.0	17.0

4.1 (b) Funding History: Public Service Commission – Research and Analysis

Financing	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimated	FY 2001 Analyst
Dedicated Credits Revenue	\$50,800	\$39,100	\$49,300	\$60,000	\$60,000
Total	\$50,800	\$39,100	\$49,300	\$60,000	\$60,000
% Change		-23.0%	26.1%	21.7%	0.0%
Programs					
Research and Analysis	\$50,800	\$39,100	\$49,300	\$60,000	\$60,000
Total	\$50,800	\$39,100	\$49,300	\$60,000	\$60,000
Expenditures					
Current Expense	\$50,800	\$39,100	\$49,300	\$60,000	\$60,000
Total	\$50,800	\$39,100	\$49,300	\$60,000	\$60,000

4.1 (c) Funding History – Public Service Commission – Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund

Einanaina	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimated	FY 2001
Financing					Analyst
Universal Public Telecom Service Fund	\$4,963,800	\$6,762,000	\$6,905,000	\$5,368,300	\$5,531,900
Beginning Nonlapsing	2,451,300	3,029,500	4,480,600	6,191,700	6,366,100
Closing Nonlapsing	(3,029,500)	(4,480,600)	(6,191,700)	(6,366,100)	(6,704,200)
Total _	\$4,385,600	\$5,310,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,800
% Change		21.1%	-2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Programs					
Universal Telecom Service Fund	\$4,385,600	\$5,310,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,800
Total =	\$4,385,600	\$5,310,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,800
Expenditures					
Other Charges/Pass Thru	\$4,385,600	\$5,310,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,800
Total	\$4,385,600	\$5,310,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,900	\$5,193,800

4.1 (d) Funding History – Public Service Commission – Lifeline Telecommunications Service Fund

Financing	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Estimated	FY 2001 Analyst
Dedicated Credits Revenue			\$1,213,200	\$1,002,300	\$1,139,800
Beginning Nonlapsing				1,207,800	1,107,800
Closing Nonlapsing			(1,207,800)	(1,107,800)	(997,600)
Total	\$0	\$0	\$5,400	\$1,102,300	\$1,250,000
% Change				20313.0%	13.4%
Programs					
Lifeline Telecommunications Support Fun	d		\$5,400	\$1,102,300	\$1,250,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$5,400	\$1,102,300	\$1,250,000
Expenditures					
Other Charges/Pass Thru			\$5,400	\$1,102,300	\$1,250,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$5,400	\$1,102,300	\$1,250,000

4.1 (e) Funding History – Public Service Commission - Speech and Hearing Impaired

	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
Financing	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Analyst
Dedicated Credits Revenue	\$2,167,700	\$2,258,400	\$2,399,700	\$2,400,400	\$2,514,300
Beginning Nonlapsing	1,491,900	2,106,900	2,993,100	3,565,300	3,658,200
Closing Nonlapsing	(2,106,900)	(2,993,100)	(3,565,300)	(3,658,200)	(3,865,000)
Total	\$1,552,700	\$1,372,200	\$1,827,500	\$2,307,500	\$2,307,500
% Change		-11.6%	33.2%	26.3%	0.0%
Programs					
Speech and Hearing Impaired	\$1,552,700	\$1,372,200	\$1,827,500	\$2,307,500	\$2,307,500
Total	\$1,552,700	\$1,372,200	\$1,827,500	\$2,307,500	\$2,307,500
Expenditures					
Current Expense	\$1,552,700	\$1,372,200	\$1,827,500	\$2,307,500	\$2,307,500
Total	\$1,552,700	\$1,372,200	\$1,827,500	\$2,307,500	\$2,307,500